



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016 & Wednesday, December 14, 2016

PRCC Meeting Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS	Jim Craig, USFWS
Bob Rose, YN	Kirk Truscott, CCT
Jeff Korth, C. Andonaegui (Alt), P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW	Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser (Alt), GCPUD	Erin McIntyre, GCPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator	

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Jim Craig, USFWS	Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Curt Dotson, GCPUD	Scott Carlon, NMFS
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc., Facilitator	Erin McIntyre, GCPUD, Admin Ass't
Tom Dresser, GCPUD (via phone)	Jeff Korth, WDFW
Bob Rose, YN (via phone)	

Tuesday, December 13th
Grant PUD – Wenatchee Office
1:00PM

- I. **Welcome and Introductions**
- II. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr) – No additions**
- III. **Subyearling Chinook and NNI Funding Calculations – Review and Discussion of List of Options** – Discussion continued regarding Steelhead Survival Studies, subyearling Summer Chinook survival testing options, and possible options regarding how to address NNI Funding calculations. After a couple of hours of extensive discussion and the voicing of different thoughts as to how to possibly address the questions before them, no conclusions or defined path forward was achieved. At this point, the JFP decided it might be advantageous to meet among themselves without Grant's attendance. Accordingly, Dotson and Dresser exited the meeting. Before moving into a JFP meeting, all members agreed to continue the discussion during the next day PRCC meeting beginning at 9:00 am at Wanapum HOB.
- IV. **Summary and Next Steps** - After extensive discussion, no conclusions were reached. Dotson and Dresser exited the meeting and the JFP committee members continued to meet and discuss the subject further. The PRCC will continue the discussion during the PRCC meeting scheduled for the next day.

- V. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 14th, 2016, 9:00am Wanapum Dam – HOB-Conf. Room 107

Wednesday, December 14th
Wanapum Dam HOB-Conf. Room 107
9:00 am

PRCC Meeting Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS	Jim Craig, USFWS
Bob Rose, YN	Kirk Truscott, CCT
Jeff Korth, C. Andonaegui (Alt), P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW	Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser (Alt), GCPUD	Erin McIntyre, GCPUD Admin Ass't
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator	

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Jim Craig, USFWS	Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Curt Dotson, GCPUD	Scott Carlon, NMFS
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc., Facilitator	Erin McIntyre, GCPUD, Admin. Ass't
Tom Dresser, GCPUD	Timothy Lawes, OSU
Don Lyons, OSU	Ken Collis, RTR
Allen Evans, RTR (via phone)	Dan Roby OSU
Kirk Truscott, CCT (via phone)	Bob Rose, YN
Jeff Korth, WDFW	

- I. **Welcome and Introductions**
- II. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr)** – Dotson requested a discussion of pinnipeds be added to the agenda.
- III. **Meeting Minutes Approval: (D. Rohr)**
 - A. Affirm approval of September 28, 2016; (approved)
 - B. Request approval of October 12, 2016 conference call; (in progress)
 - C. Affirm approval of October 26, 2016; (approved)
 - D. Request approval of November 16, 2016. (D. Rohr) (in progress)
- IV. **Action Items Review from November 16, 2016 meeting (D. Rohr)** – All action items were completed prior to today's meeting.
- V. **2016 Avian Predation Presentation – Allen Evans, Real Time Research; Dan Roby, USGS (C. Dotson) –**
 - A. **Draft 2016 Avian Report** - Dan Roby, USGS, Don Lyons and Tim Lawes, OSU, and Ken Collis, RTR, were in attendance to make the power point presentation of the draft report, "Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region". Allan Evans, RTR, participated by conference phone.

Background and historical activities of tern activities in the Columbia Basin and more specifically in the Columbia Plateau area were reviewed. Salmon and steelhead stocks from the Columbia Basin are listed as threatened or endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, and Caspian terns nesting on the Columbia Plateau consume juvenile salmonids and are limiting the recovery of some stocks, in particular steelhead from the Snake and Upper Columbia Rivers. Accordingly, management activities are being implemented to reduce or eliminate Caspian tern nesting at Goose and Crescent islands, historically the two largest tern colonies in the region. Concurrent efforts are also in progress to create suitable tern nesting habitat outside the Columbia Basin and attract terns to nest there, including the San Francisco Bay area.

The Research Objectives of the draft report include four tasks, namely Task 1: Determine changes in colony-specific metrics and colony connectivity of Caspian terns in the Columbia Plateau region in relation to management activities at the Goose and Crescent island colonies, Task 2: Determine changes in nesting location and foraging behavior of Caspian terns in the Columbia Plateau region in relation to management activities at the Goose and Crescent Island colonies, Task 3: Determine changes in predation rates on salmonid smolts by Caspian terns in the Columbia Plateau region in relation to management activities at the Goose and Crescent Island colonies, Task 4: Determine changes in colony sizes and predation rates on salmonid smolts in the Columbia Plateau region by species of piscivorous colonial waterbirds other than Caspian terns. Activities and summary information regarding each task were reviewed, and PRCC members participated in the presentation and discussion of each. It was noted that the final draft report is expected to be completed by the end of January, 2017. Additionally, more project information can be found at www.BirdResearchNW.org.

- B. Request for NNI Funding** – A brief presentation was made to request consideration of NNI funding for 2017 to continue the avian predation work. Additional background was presented plus a description of the four tasks included in the 2017 proposal. The proposal will be discussed further at the next PRCC meeting in January.
- VI. Affirm Final Approval of Draft 2015 Steelhead / Sockeye Survival Study Report (D. Rohr)**
– Rohr commented that approval of the Report was received from Korth.
- VII. 2016 Survival Study Report – “Survival of Acoustic Tagged Steelhead Smolts through the Priest Rapids Project in 2016” – Review and Close of Comments (C. Dotson, D. Rohr)**
– The “Skalski Report” was discussed. Dotson will include edits received from Craig by email. Skiles requested an additional week for review and will communicate with Dotson by email if any edits are to be included.
- VIII. Sub-yearling and NNI Funding Calculations – List of Options (D. Rohr)** – The JFP discussed the outcome of their meeting held the previous day to discuss this subject. Option concepts that were discussed during the JFP meeting were presented and reviewed. After continued discussion, no conclusions were reached. The JFP will continue to meet off line to discuss possible options. The subject will be discussed further at the January PRCC meeting.

- IX. **SOA 2016-05, Schedule for Conducting Sub-Yearling Summer Chinook Survival Evaluations** (C. Dotson, D. Rohr) – Rose and Dotson will discuss off line, and further review and discussion will occur at the January meeting.
- X. **NNI Funding Proposal – “Factors Influencing the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook Salmon in Lake Wenatchee, WA”** (J. Korth) – Brief discussion took place. Additional discussion will take place at the January meeting.
- XI. **Grant PUD Coho Mitigation (T. Dresser, C. Dotson)** – Dresser addressed this subject as a follow up to the December 7th webinar conference which included this topic. Dresser and Rohr will review in more detail off line and prepare for additional discussion during the January meeting.
- XII. **Pinniped Proposal (Addition to Agenda)** (C. Dotson) – Dotson briefly referenced and reviewed the proposal that had been email to PRCC members a few days earlier. The proposal will be discussed in detail during the January meeting, including a presentation by the proposal sponsor Michelle Rub, NOAA.
- XIII. **Potpourri**
 - A. “The Blob” Presentation/Schedule – (B. Rose) – discussion deferred.
 - B. GCPUD’s Draft 2017 Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan for PRP – Close of Comment is December 31, 2016 (D. Rohr)
- XIV. **Updates**
 - A. **Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson)** (See avian discussion above)
 - B. **Hatchery Activities (T. Dresser)** (No updates)
 - 1. Carlton Acclimation Facility
 - 2. Nason Creek Acclimation Facility
 - 3. Priest Rapids Hatchery Modifications
 - 4. Penticton Hatchery
 - C. **Hatchery Permits: Sec 10 Consultation/Summer Chinook, Sec 7 Consultation/Bull Trout.** (T. Dresser) (No updates)
 - D. **Review of NNI Funded Projects**
 - 1. 2016 Real Time Research / Oregon State university – “Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-Listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region” - (C. Dotson) – (See avian discussion above)
 - 2. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I - II Contract Extension – (J. Korth) (No update)
 - 3. Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (2016-17) – (T. Dresser) (No update)
 - 4. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – (J. Korth) (No update)
 - 5. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser) (No update)
 - 6. Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (McMichael Report in Spring, 2017) (B. Rose) (No update)

- XV. **Committee Reports (D. Rohr)** – Information previously emailed to committee members by Rohr.
- XVI. **Quarterly NNI and Habitat Funds Report (placeholder for information when available) (D. Rohr)** (No update)
- XVII. **Next Meeting** – Wednesday, January 25, 2017, Wanapum HOB

Action Items from November 16, 2016 PRCC Meeting:

1. **ACTION ITEM: 2016 Survival Study Presentations** – Rohr will set up a Webinar Conference to allow for presentations to be made by Skalski/Townsend and BLE/Kyle Hatch prior to next meeting on December 13th.
2. **ACTION ITEM: SOA 2016-04, Decoupling Sub-yearling from Steelhead Performance Standard and Linking to Yearling Chinook for Purpose of Calculating NNI Funding (C. Dotson)** – Rohr will set up a special meeting on December 13th to discuss Subyearling Chinook and NNI Funding Calculations; Dotson will develop a List of Options for review and discussion at December 13th meeting.
3. **Grant PUD Coho Mitigation (T. Dresser, C. Dotson)** - Rohr to work with Dresser on this subject between now and the December 14th PRCC meeting.